UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

VICTORIA O'CONNOR,)
Plaintiff,) Case No.: 4:21-cv-01097
٧.) Removed from Circuit Court of
TARGET CORPORATION,) St. Charles County, Missouri
mazi com om mory,) JURY TRIAL REQUESTED
Defendant.)

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

COMES NOW Defendant, TARGET CORPORATION, by and through its attorneys, BETH C. BOGGS and BOGGS, AVELLINO, LACH & BOGGS, L.L.C., pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441 and 28 U.S.C. § 1446, and for its Notice of Removal, states to the Court as follows:

- 1. This action entitled <u>Victoria O'Connor v. Target Corporation</u> was commenced in the Circuit Court of St. Charles County, State of Missouri, on or about July 2, 2021.
- 2. The attached Petition was served upon Target Corporation on or about August 4, 2021.
- 3. Upon information and belief, Defendant states that Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Missouri, as pled in Plaintiff's Petition, Paragraph 1.
- 4. Defendant, Target Corporation, is incorporated in the State of Minnesota and has its principal place of business in the State of Minnesota. Thus, for purposes of diversity, Defendant is a resident and citizen of the State of Minnesota.
- 5. Defendant asserts that complete diversity exists, as Defendant is a citizen of the State of Minnesota and has its principal place of business in the State of Minnesota. See

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28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1).

6. This is an action over which this Court has original jurisdiction under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1332, in that the matter in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds the sum of \$75,000.00 and is between citizens of different states. The Plaintiff claims a traumatic brain injury from this event. See Plaintiff's Petition, Paragraph 13.

- 7. Counsel for the Defendant has reached out to Plaintiff's counsel to determine whether Plaintiff is seeking damages in excess of \$75,000.00. Counsel for the Plaintiff has confirmed via e-mail dated September 2, 2021, that Plaintiff is seeking damages in excess of \$75,000.00.
- 8. A copy of all processes, pleadings, orders, records, and proceedings filed in St. Charles County are attached to this Notice of Removal.
- 9. Defendant has filed this Notice of Removal within 30 days after the service of the Petition from which it was first ascertained that this case was removable.

WHEREFORE, Defendant, TARGET CORPORATION, respectfully requests that this Court acknowledge jurisdiction over this action and allow removal thereto to this Court for determination of all issues involved herein.

DEFENDANT DEMANDS TRIAL BY JURY

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Respectfully submitted,

TARGET CORPORATION

By: /s/ Beth C. Boggs

Beth C. Boggs, #43089MO
BOGGS, AVELLINO, LACH & BOGGS, L.L.C.
9326 Olive Blvd., Suite 200
St. Louis, MO 63132
(314) 726-2310 Telephone
(314) 726-2360 Facsimile
bboggs@balblawyers.com
Attorneys for Defendant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was electronically filed with the Clerk of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Missouri, by using the Court's CM/ECF Electronic Filing System this 3rd day of September, 2021, with an electronic copy to be served by e-mail upon the following:

Andrew H. Marty, #37158
Evan M. Bettag, #60932
CHASSANIOL & MARTY, LLC
5301 Veterens Memorial Parkway, Suite 201
St. Peters, MO 63376
(636) 486-4861 Telephone
(636) 922-0994 Facsimile
andy@trialstl.com
evan@trialstl.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Patricia a. Soule

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

VICTORIA O'CONNOR,)
Plaintiff,) Case No.: 4:21-cv-01097
v. TARGET CORPORATION, Defendant.	 Removed from Circuit Court of St. Charles County, Missouri JURY TRIAL REQUESTED
ORIGINAL F	ILING FORM
THIS CASE MUST BE COMPLETED AND VEI	RIFIED BY THE FILING PARTY WHEN
	TALLY EQUIVALENT COMPLAINT, WAS E NUMBER AND ASSIGNED
	JBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT COMPLAINT, JRT, AND THEREFORE MAY BE OPENED AS
The undersigned affirms that the information	provided above is true and correct.
Date: September 3, 2021	
	Beth C. Boggs nature of Filing Party

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JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS			
VICTORIA O'CONNOR			TARGET CORPO	TARGET CORPORATION		
(b) County of Residence of	f First Listed Plaintiff SXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF C	St. Charles County, M ASES)	NOTE: IN LAND CO	of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES (DNDEMNATION CASES, USE T OF LAND INVOLVED.		
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Andrew H. Marty, Evan N 5301 Veterans Memorial (636) 486-4861	M. Bettag, Chassaniol	& Marty, LLC,	Attorneys (If Known) Beth C. Boggs, Bo	ggs, Avellino, Lach & Bo Suite 200, St. Louis, MO		
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in C	One Box (Only)	II. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintij	
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government		(For Diversity Cases Only) P	F DEF 1 Incorporated or Prof Business In	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF rincipal Place	
2 U.S. Government Defendant	■ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	tip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2		
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 🗇 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	Γ (Place an "X" in One Box () ϵ	nly)	7 ordin country			
CONTRACT		DRTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
 □ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 	PERSONAL INJURY □ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud	☐ 625 Drug Related Scizure of Property 21 USC 881 ☐ 690 Other LABOR 7 ☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 ■ PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark ■ SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923)	□ 375 False Claims Act □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange	
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 3 360 Other Personal Injury ☐ 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	□ 371 Truth in Lending □ 380 Other Personal Property Damage □ 385 Property Damage Product Liability	☐ 720 Labor/Management Relations ☐ 740 Railway Labor Act ☐ 751 Family and Medical Leave Act ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation	□ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g))	□ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration	
REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability	CIVIL RIGHTS □ 440 Other Civil Rights □ 441 Voting □ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/ Accommodations	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: □ 463 Alien Detainee □ 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence □ 530 General	To 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	□ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
□ 290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment ☐ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other ☐ 448 Education	☐ 535 Death Penalty Other: ☐ 540 Mandamus & Other ☐ 550 Civil Rights ☐ 555 Prison Condition ☐ 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	■ 462 Naturalization Application ■ 465 Other Immigration Actions			
	moved from 3	Remanded from	Reinstated or 5 Transfe Reopened Anothe (specify)	rred from 🏻 🗗 6 Multidistr r District Litigation		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIC	Brief description of ca	c)(1)	iling (Do not cite jurisdictional state	utes unless diversity):		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION	DEMAND S 50,000.00	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:	
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE 09/03/2021		signature of attor /s/ Beth C. Boggs				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AM	IOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG JUI	DGE	

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

Case: 4:21-cv-01097-SEP Doc. #: 2-1 Filed: 09/03/21 Page: 6 of 13 PageID #: 21 **2111-CC00564**

IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STATE OF MISSOURI CIRCUIT JUDGE DIVISION

VICTORIA O'CONNOR,)
Plaintiff,) Cause No.:
V.) Division:
TARGET CORPORATION, Defendant.) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED)
Serve at:)
CT Corporation System)
120 South Central Avenue)
Clayton, MO 63105)

PETITION FOR DAMAGES

COMES NOW Plaintiff, Victoria O'Connor, by and through undersigned counsel, and for her Petition for Damages states as follows:

PARTIES

- Plaintiff Victoria O'Connor is, and at all relevant times was, a resident of St. Charles County, Missouri.
- 2. Defendant Target Corporation (hereinafter "Target") is a Minnesota corporation registered with the Missouri Secretary of State to conduct business in this state.

JURSIDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to RSMo. §506.500.
- 4. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to RSMo. §508.0101, in that Plaintiff was first injured in St. Charles County, Missouri.

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

 At all times mentioned herein, Defendant Target owned, leased, operated, managed, maintained, and/or controlled the premises and property known as Target located at 3881 Mexico Road, St. Charles, Missouri (hereinafter "the Premises").

- 6. On September 7, 2019, Plaintiff was an invitee of Defendant Target at the Premises.
- 7. At that time and place, Plaintiff was moving a piece of carpeting on an overhead shelf.
- 8. At that time and place, a portion of the metal shelving detached and struck Plaintiff in the head.

COUNT I – PREMISES LIABILITY

- 9. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges Paragraphs 1 through 8 as if fully restated herein.
- 10. The shelving unit was assembled in such a manner such that parts could detach and fall and as such the store was not reasonably safe.
- 11. Defendant Target knew or by using ordinary care could have known of this condition.
- 12. Defendant Target failed to use ordinary care to remove, barricade, or warn of this condition.
- 13. As a direct and proximate result of such failure, Plaintiff suffered painful, disabling, and permanent injuries to her head, face, and brain.
- 14. As a direct and proximate result of the injuries described above, Plaintiff sustained suffering and pain, and her ability to enjoy life is diminished and impaired, all of which will continue into the future.
- 15. As a direct and proximate result of the injuries described above, Plaintiff has incurred medical expenses to cure or relieve the effects of her injuries.
- 16. As a direct and proximate result of the injuries described above, Plaintiff will incur future medical expenses to cure or relieve the effects of her injuries.
- 17. As a direct and proximate result of the injuries described above, Plaintiff has lost, and will lose in the future, income and wages.

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WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Victoria O'Connor prays for judgement against Defendant Target Corporation for a sum in excess of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) that will fairly and justly compensate her for her damages, pre-judgment interest, costs incurred, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II - NEGLIGENCE - RES IPSA LOQUITUR

- 18. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges Paragraphs 1 through 8 as if fully restated herein.
- 19. Defendant Target had control and management of the shelving unit that struck Plaintiff.
- 20. Metal shelving does not become detached when those in control exercise due care.
- 21. From the facts of such occurrence and the reasonable inferences therefrom, such occurrence was directly caused by Defendant Target's negligence.
- 22. As a direct and proximate result of such negligence, Plaintiff suffered painful, disabling, and permanent injuries to her head, face, and brain.
- 23. As a direct and proximate result of the injuries described above, Plaintiff sustained suffering and pain, and her ability to enjoy life is diminished and impaired, all of which will continue into the future.
- 24. As a direct and proximate result of the injuries described above, Plaintiff has incurred medical expenses to cure or relieve the effects of her injuries.
- 25. As a direct and proximate result of the injuries described above, Plaintiff will incur future medical expenses to cure or relieve the effects of her injuries.
- 26. As a direct and proximate result of the injuries described above, Plaintiff has lost, and will lose in the future, income and wages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Victoria O'Connor prays for judgement against Defendant

Target Corporation for a sum in excess of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) that will

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fairly and justly compensate her for her damages, pre-judgment interest, costs incurred, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

CHASSANIOL & MARTY, LLC

/s/ Andrew H. Marty

Andrew H. Marty, #37158 Evan M. Bettag, #60932 5301 Veterans Memorial Pkwy, Suite 201 St. Peters, MO 63376 (636) 486-4861 (636) 922-0994 facsimile andy@trialstl.com evan@trialstl.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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IN THE 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI

Judge or Division: MICHAEL JAMES FAGRAS		Case Number: 2111-CC00564	
Plaintiff/Petitioner: VICTORIA O'CONNOR	vs.	Plaintiff's/Petitioner's Attorney/Address EVAN MICHAEL BETTAG CHASSANIOL & MARTY LLC 5301 VETERANS MEMORIAL PKWY SUITE 201 SAINT PETERS, MO 63376	
Defendant/Respondent: TARGET CORPORATION		Court Address: 300 N 2nd STREET	
Nature of Suit: CC Pers Injury-Other		SAINT CHARLES, MO 63301	(D

(Date File Stamp)

	Summons in Civil Ca	se
The State of Missouri to:	TARGET CORPORATION	
	Alias:	
000 NICOLLET MALL	Serve at:	
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403	CT Corporation System	
	120 South Central Avenue	
	Clayton, MO 63105	
COURT SEAL OF		
A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR	You are summoned to appear before this co- copy of which is attached, and to serve a co- plaintiff/petitioner at the above address all v exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to be taken against you for the relief demander	py of your pleading upon the attorney for vithin 30 days after receiving this summons, file your pleading, judgment by default may
ST. CHARLES COUNTY	- ·	
	7/6/2021 Date	/S/ Cheryl Crowder
		Clerk
	Further Information:	
Nata to namina affican O	Sheriff's or Server's Return	
	ummons should be returned to the court within 30 days	s after the date of issue.
	the above summons by: (check one)	
delivering a copy of the	summons and a copy of the petition to the defendant/r	respondent.
ieaving a copy of the su	mmons and a copy of the petition at the dwelling place	or usual abode of the defendant/respondent with
15 years who permane	ently resides with the defendant/respondent.	e detendants/respondents family over the age of
(for service on a corpora	ation) delivering a copy of the summons and a copy of	the complaint to:
	(name)	(title).
Served at		(address)
	(County/City of St. Louis), MO, on	
	(South, Sity of St. Estas), MO, Off	(unite).
Printed Name of	of Sheriff or Server	Signature of Sheriff or Server
N	lust be sworn before a notary public if not served by an a	
(Seal)	Subscribed and sworn to before me on	(date).

Date

My commission expires: _

Notary Public

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Sheriff's Fees, if applicab	ole		
Summons	\$		
Non Est	\$		
Sheriff's Deputy Salary			
Supplemental Surcharge	\$10.00		
Mileage	\$(miles @ \$	per mile)
Total	\$		
A copy of the summons an classes of suits, see Supre	id a copy of the petition must	t be served on each	n defendant/respondent. For methods of service on all

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IN THE 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI

Judge or Division: MICHAEL JAMES FAGRAS	Case Number: 2111-CC00564
Plaintiff/Petitioner: VICTORIA O'CONNOR vs.	Plaintiff's/Petitioner's Attorney/Address EVAN MICHAEL BETTAG CHASSANIOL & MARTY LLC 5301 VETERANS MEMORIAL PKWY SUITE 201 SAINT PETERS, MO 63376
Defendant/Respondent: TARGET CORPORATION	Court Address: 300 N 2nd STREET
Nature of Suit: CC Pers Injury-Other	SAINT CHARLES, MO 63301

	Summons in (Civil Case	
The State of Missouri to:	TARGET CORPORATION		
1000 NICOLLET MALL MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403	Serve at: CT Corporation System 120 South Central Avent Clayton, MO 63105		
COURT SEAL OF	copy of which is attached, and to plaintiff/petitioner at the above ad	ore this court and to file your pleading to the petition, serve a copy of your pleading upon the attorney for dress all within 30 days after receiving this summons you fall to file your pleading, judgment by default may demanded in the petition.	s,
ST. CHARLES COUNTY	7/6/2021	/S/ Cheryl Crowder	
	Date Further Information:	Clerk	
I certify that I have served delivering a copy of the leaving a copy of the su 15 years who perman	, a ently resides with the defendant/responder ation) delivering a copy of the summons ar	defendant/respondent. welling place or usual abode of the defendant/respondent with person of the defendant's/respondent's family over the age of our control of the defendant o	
John Printed Name MANS MANS	whal, #400, St. (0013, MC) white (County/City of St. Louis), MC white (County/City of	Signature of Sheriff or Server	

Sheriff's Fees, if applicab	le
Summons	\$
Non Est	\$
Sheriff's Deputy Salary Supplemental Surcharge	\$10.00
Mileage	\$(miles @, \$. per mile)
Total	\$
A copy of the summons an classes of sults, see Supre	ad a copy of the petition must be served on each defendant/respondent. For methods of service on all the court Rule 54.